Numb. 4841

The London Gazette.

Published by Authority.

From Tuesday May 1. to Thursday May 3. 1711.

Florence, April 21. *N. S.*

THEY write from Naples, that the Transports bound with Provisions for Barcelona, under the Convoy of three Men of War, had met with a violent Storm near Palermo, which had forced two Tartanes back, but that it was thought the rest had weather'd it out, and were pursuing their Voyage towards Catalonia. The Spanish Governor of Porto Longone, under the Duke of Anjou, having laid Siege to St. Stephano, a General Officer in his Catholick Majesty's Service is gone with some Forces from Piombino to relieve it. A Dutch Galley that arrived the 9th Instant at Leghorn from Barcelona reports, that Sir John Jennings was sailed from thence with ten Men of War for Port Mahon, having sent the rest of the Fleet to Tarragona. The French have lately taken many Neutral Ships, and are fitting out several Galleys at Marseilles and Toulon, whereupon the States of Venice and Genoa are sending their Envoys into France, to make their Complaints of these Proceedings at that Court. The Hereditary Prince of Tuscany is better than he has been of late, and it being thought that the Change of Air will contribute much to the Recovery of his Health, Preparations are made for his Removal to a Country Seat belonging to the Grand Duke, in the Neighbourhood of this Place. They write from Rome, that it was thought Comachio wou'd speedily be restored to the Pope, upon Condition an Imperial Garrison be suffer'd to continue in that Place till a general Peace, the Expences of which Garrison are to be paid out of the Apostolick Chamber. The Envoy of Portugal is preparing new Liveries, which are to be very costly. This has confirm'd the Report that has of late prevail'd, that he is shortly to take upon him the Character of Ambassador from that Crown.

From the Camp at Warde, May 7. *N. S.* On Monday the 4th Instant a Detachment of ours that went out to get Intelligence of the Enemy, found means to pass without Opposition as far as Bapaume, near which Place they took Prisoners a Lieutenant-Colonel, a Lieutenant, and a Quarter-Master of Horse, and two Captains of Foot and twenty private Men, belonging to a Detachment of the Enemy's Troops order'd that way for the conveniency of Forage. Our Men fell in likewise with some of their Waggons, but were so near the Enemy's Corps, that they had only time to take out what was most valuable, and retire with their Prisoners and Booty. Our Army, and that of the Enemy's, continue in their former Camps; and the Enemy, besides the Waters they have let out, take all other Precautions for the Security of their Camp. The Scarcity of Forage has oblig'd them to send a good part of their Horse some distance into the Country for Subsistance. The great Rains that have fallen for ten Days together, have rendred the Roads almost impracticable; but our Magazines are so near us, that we are under no Apprehensions of suffering much by it.

Brussels, May 7. *N. S.* Our Letters from the Camp of the 4th Instant advise, that the Confederate Army continu'd encamp'd on the same Ground they took upon their Removal from Orchies, having the Left Wing extended to Fenain, the Right towards Golevesin, and the Center near Warde, where his Grace the Duke of Marlborough has his Head Quarters. Upon this Motion of the Allies, Marshal Villars has drawn the French Army into a narrower Compass behind the Senset, between Bouchain and Arras, and six Battalions that were posted near the latter of these Places, are detach'd from thence, with Orders to cover some Workmen that are employ'd in throwing up several small Forts on the Scarpe as far as Pont Eugie. Private Letters from Compeigne of the 4th say, that the Marquis de Torcy has been there to confer with the late Elector of Bavaria, which has given ground to a Report, that that Prince is to Command an Army this Summer on the Rhine. The Prince of Savoy is expected at Antwerp to Morrow in his way to Ghent, from whence he will proceed directly to the Army.

Hague, May 8. *N. S.* Our Letters from the Confederate Army of the 4th Instant advise, that they continue in their Camp near Douay, the Head Quarters being at Warde. The Enemy are still on the other side the Senset, having fortified, or laid under Water, all the accessible places of that River, so that at present there is no likelihood of bringing them to an Action. Some Advices arriv'd this Day from thence add, that on the 5th at four a-Clock in the Afternoon Orders were given out for the Army to be in a readiness to March at twelve that Night, but at six those Orders were countermanded, and only fifty Men were detach'd out of each Battalion. These Men being furnish'd with Bridges, have taken their Route towards Bouchain; but it is not yet known on what Design. They write from Paris, that the Ministers in the French Court are earnestly endeavouring to find out some means to create a Disturbance in the Empire during the present Conjuncture; and it is said the late Elector of Bavaria is to set out speedily for the Rhine, where he is to have the Command of an Army this Campaign; and that Orders were accordingly sent for a Detachment of seventeen Battalions to be made out of Dauphiny, which is to be join'd by another from the Netherlands; but as yet we do not hear that any Draughts have been made from thence. The Prince of Savoy has had several Conferences with the Pensionary, and the Ministers of the Allies, since his Arrival. He proposeth to set out to Morrow for the Army; and it is said, that in case the French make any Detachments for Germany, he will likewise Command an Army on the Rhine. His Excellency my Lord Raby was this Day in Conference with the States upon the Affairs in the North, and in relation to the Troops appointed for the Preservation of the Neutrality.

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